

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

5002

87882 CONFIDENTIAL

005554

ONE

STAT

STAT

1966 MAR 7 AM 7 34 BR

VZCZCMBJ261SPA723ZCALA927 34

RR RUEHC

DE RUALOS 042E 0661050

ZNY CCCCC

R 071030Z

FM AMEMBASSY SEUL

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9761

INFO RUMJIR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON 170

RUALOT/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 334

RUHLHQ/CINCPAC 334

STATE GRNC

BT

CONFIDENTIAL MARCH 7 SEONE OF TWO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: EMBTEL 970, RPTD SAIGON 167, TOKYO 333, CINCPAC 332

ADDITIONAL TROOPS TO VIETNAM

1. ROK RADIO THIS AFTERNOON REPORTED AMBASSADOR CALLED ON FONMIN YI TONG-WON THIS MORNING TO GIVE YI LETTER ENUMERATING U.S. PROVISIONS RELATING ROK SECURITY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. AND ROK. LATER BULLETINS ANNOUNCE THAT ROKG HAS MADE PUBLIC CONTENTS OF LETTER, WHICH IS SAID TO CONSIST OF 14 POINTS. DETAILS OF DISCLOSURE NOT

PAGE 2 RUALOS 042E CONFIDENTIAL  
CARRIED BY RADIO, WILL DOUBTLESS APPEAR IN MORNING PRESS.

2. JOINT MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND NATDEF COMMITTEES OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OPENED AFTERNOON MARCH 7. PP ASSEMBLY MANSO POM-SOK IMMEDIATELY PROPOSED THAT COMMITTEES INTERPELLATE PRIOIN, DEPUTY PRIMIN, FONMI, MND AND PERHAPS OTHER CABINET MEMBERS ON MARCH 8. DRP ACCEPTED PROPOSAL AND MEETING WAS FORTHWITH ADJOURNED.

3. ON MARCH 5, ROKG OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF PRESSING FOR REVISION ROK-U.S. MUTUAL SECURITY PACT, DESPITE MOVES BY BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES FOR REVISIONS. NEVERTHELESS, PRESS HAS TAKEN UP CALL FOR AMENDMENT TO PACT. TAEHAN ILBO SAID ARTICLE 3, WHICH SUBJECTS US TO COMPLICATED CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES, MADE OBSOLETE BY FACT THAT A STRONG RED CHINA HAS REPLACED USSR IN COLD WAR CONFLICT, SHOULD BE REVISED SO THAT US CAN IMMEDIATELY MEET ANY DANGER BEFALLING ROK.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-2- 976, MARCH 7, FROM SEOUL (SEONE OF TWO)

REVISION OF ARTICLE 4 (SIC) WOULD PROHIBIT US TROOP PULL-  
OUT WITHOUT ROK CONCURRENCE AND WOULD ENCOURAGE KOREAN  
PEOPLE. TONG-A ILBO WELCOMED NEWS THAT DRP ASSEMBLYMEN

PAGE 3 RUALOS 042E C O N F I D E N T I A L  
LED BY CHA CHI-CHOL WILL PROPOSE AMENDMENT TO PACT TO  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, PROMISED CHA "TOTAL SUPPORT". ALTHOUGH  
TONG-A HAS "NO REASON TO DOUBT SINCERITY OF US TOWARD ROK",  
WANTS TO HAVE COMMITMENT DOCUMENTED BY AMENDMENT TO PACT WITH  
GUARANTEES SUCH AS ARE INCLUDED IN NATO TREATIES. US SHOULD  
UNDERSTAND ROK ANXIETY, GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO AMEND-  
MENT SO THAT ADDITIONAL TROOPS CAN BE DESPATCHED WITH  
"CONFIDENCE". OTHERWISE, PAPER EXPRESSES OPINION IT "MAY BE  
REASONABLE PRESS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF PENDING TROOP DES-  
PATCH".

4. MAJOR EDITORIAL COVERAGE OVER WEEKEND, HOWEVER, GIVEN  
STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON ON FREE ELECTIONS IN VIET-  
NAM AND BY SENATOR FULBRIGHT ON NEUTRALIZATION OF ENTIRE  
AREA. CHOSUN ILBO SAID SENATE HEARINGS GAVE KOREANS MIS-  
GIVINGS ABOUT COURSE OF US POLICY IN VIETNAM, AT SAME TIME  
HARMED MORALE OF TROOPS FIGHTING IN THAT COUNTRY AND  
ENCOURAGED COMMUNISTS. ALTHOUGH PAPER PROFESSED TO BE  
HEARTENED BY RESULTS OF VOTINGS IN AS CONGRESS ON FUNDS  
TO CONTINUE WAR, POINTED OUT THAT DEBATE CONTINUES AND

PAGE 4 RUJWOS 042E C O N F I D E N T I A L  
WARNED THAT NEUTRALIZATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA IS NOT  
MEANS OF RESTORING PEACE. TAEHAN ILBO GAVE FULL SUPPORT  
PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S PROPOSAL, OPPOSITION TO FULBRIGHT'S,  
BUT SAID SETTLEMENT OF VIETNAM ISSUE WILL DEPEND UPON  
WHETHER JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION HAS ENOUGH POLITICAL "GUTS"  
TO SEE IT THROUGH. HANKUK ILBO SAID NEWS FROM WASHINGTON  
SOMETIMES INDICATES US POLICY TOWARD VIETNAM FLUID, LACKING  
CONSISTENCY. REFERRING TO JOHNSON AND FULBRIGHT PROPOSALS,  
HANKUK SAID GENUINE PEACE WILL NOT BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY  
IMPROMPTU METHODS, AMERICAN POLITICIANS SHOULD TAKE INTO  
ACCOUNT IMPACT OF CARELESS REMARKS ON MORALE OF FREE ASIA  
COUNTRIES. FIRM RESOLUTION ALONE WILL FACILITATE SOLIDARITY.  
SAID IT NAIVE TO HOLD THAT FREE ASIAN COUNTRIES WILL AUTO-  
MATICALLY FOLLOW WHATEVER LINE US MAY PURSUE. CHONNAMMAEIL  
SINOUN (KWANGJU) GAVE SUPPORT "IN PRINCIPLE" TO PRESIDENT  
JOHNSON'S THOUGHTS ON FREE ELECTIONS, BUT SAID IDEA IS "AT  
BEST IDEALISTIC PATTERN OF THOUGHT." DESCRIBED FULBRIGHT'S  
PROPOSAL OF NEUTRALIZATION "MORE PRACTICAL," BUT PROMISED  
POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE OF CONCILIATION BETWEEN US AND RED CHINA,  
AND GUARANTEES BETWEEN US, RED CHINA, AND USSR ON NON-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-3- 976, MARCH 7, FROM SEOUL

(SEONE OF TWO)

PAGE 2 RUALOS 042E C O N F I D E N T I A L  
INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM. CHONNAM ILBO (KWANGJU) DENOUNCED  
PROPOSAL OF NEUTRALIZATION, SAID WAR IN VIETNAM DIRECTLY  
CONNECTED WITH SECURITY AND NATIONAL SOVERIGNTY OF ASIAN  
NATIONS AND THEREFORE SALVATION OF VIETNAM WILL LEAD TO  
SALVATION ALL FREE ASIAN COUNTRIES. KYONGHYAND SINMUN  
TERMED FULBRIGHT'S PROPOSAL "GREAT SHOCK TO KOREAN PEOPLE,  
WHO DEEPLY INVOLVED IN VIETNAMESE WAR AND CONSIDERING  
ADDITIONAL TROOP DESPATCH". KANGWON ILBO SAID CONFLICT OF  
OPINION WITHIN US DIRECT INDICATION OF HOW MUCH US IS  
TROUBLED BY WAR IN VIETNAM ON ADDED "IT SAFE TO SAY WASHINGTON  
HOPES TO LEAVE VIETNAM ONLY IF CHANCE COMES TO DO SO WITH-  
OUT LOSING FACE". SAID NEUTRALIZED VIETNAM AS UNIMAGINABLE  
AS COMMUNIZED VIETNAM, QUESTIONED WHETHER US POLICY IN  
COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH KOREAN POLICY TOWARD VIETNAM AND  
WHETHER ROK SHOULD SEND TROOPS ONLY BECAUSE OF SPECIAL  
RELATIONS WITH US. BROWN

CONFIDENTIAL